

country. I take pride in the fact that I have such model citizens living in my district.

BELLE DEMBY, 106 YEARS YOUNG

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Belle Demby as she celebrates her 106th birthday.

Ms. Demby is a native of North Carolina who moved to Brooklyn as a teenager when her father got a job building the Fourth Avenue subway line. When she first arrived in Brooklyn, you could still find fresh chickens in open air markets on Third Avenue and Myrtle Avenue. She worked for \$1.50 a day sweeping the platforms of the BRT subway line and probably never earned more than \$12 a week throughout all of World War I.

For entertainment, she listened to music. As she recently told a New York Times reporter, "I listened to the radio. What do you call them, Victrola? All I can tell you is it was a big box that had music in it." When the stock market crashed she and her husband both lost their jobs. To make ends meet, Ms. Demby worked in factories, laundries and anywhere she could get a job. She recalled recently how "long-shoremen were walking back and forth to the waterfront to see if a ship came in so they could get work."

Belle Demby now lives near the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the Ingersoll Houses. Family and friends take turns reading her passages from the Bible. Although she is blind, she is still able to attend Bethel Baptist Church every Sunday with her daughter who is 87 and a grandson who at 69 is a grandfather himself.

Please join me in acknowledging the remarkable life of Belle Demby on her 106th birthday.

### IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE KENMORE HOTEL RESTORATION PROJECT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first anniversary of the complete restoration of the Kenmore Hotel. The hotel's story is a remarkable tale of cooperation between many different levels of government, NPOs, and private industry in the name of helping those citizens who most desperately need our assistance.

In 1927, the Kenmore Hotel was built by the family of Nathaniel West as an apartment hotel for working single New Yorkers. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s the Kenmore became known as a hotel for the "down and out" and the community witnessed its decent from modest respectability to complete squalor. By the middle 1980s, the Kenmore's elderly and mentally ill tenants were preyed upon by drug dealers, loan sharks, and others engaged in criminal activities. By that time, the Kenmore had more than

500 building code violations, it had been the scene of multiple tenant murders, and it was, in short, uninhabitable.

After repeated failed attempts to convince the owner to clean up the hotel, I asked the Justice Department to step in. Under the direction of Attorney General Janet Reno, the Kenmore was seized in June of 1994, becoming the largest asset forfeiture in the history of the federal government. The United States Marshal Service, working together with the NYPD, carried out the seizure of the Kenmore and became the landlord to some 300 tenants. I worked with the Marshal Service and tenants to monitor the situation and made sure that the Kenmore returned to habitability as quickly as possible.

Two years later, on July 3, 1996, with \$30 Million in hand from private investors, public (NYC and NYS) loans, a commercial loan, as well as a rent guarantee from NYC and Section 8 Vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing and Services, Inc. (HSI) commenced a complete renovation of the premises. It was only this co-operation that enabled construction to begin.

The 641 single units were converted to 326 studio apartments each with a private bath, kitchen, and air conditioning. The tenants are now served by a 35 person staff that includes front desk personnel, maintenance and repair staff, social workers, and a full time on site manager. In addition, HSI brokered agreements with local health providers so that there are nurses, psychiatrists, and a myriad of other service providers offering on-site assistance to tenants in need. On May 4, 1999, I joined HSI, tenants, elected officials and community leaders at a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the renovations. In honor of the event the building was renamed Kenmore Hall.

This spring HSI and the Kenmore partnered with the 23rd Street Association, the GPBA (Gramercy Park Block Association), and the ACE Community Partnership to create a community improvement project that employs Kenmore tenants and other homeless persons. The project seeks to reduce homelessness by providing community improvement work and job readiness training for low income men and women. The program prepares once homeless men and women to reenter the workforce through community enhancement projects in the 23rd Street area, including environmentally focused neighborhood cleanup projects.

The Kenmore Story is one where all parties involved share in its success. This project demonstrates the remarkable results that are possible when everyone works together to fix a problem that has plagued an entire community. Nonprofit organizations, community groups, government officials and agencies, and the private sector all worked together to clean up the Kenmore and provide decent housing to a previously underserved group of tenants. Kenmore Hall has become a valuable community asset and a national model of supportive, affordable housing. I am proud to report that in my district, multilevel cooperation became a reality.

### RYAN WHITE CARE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4807, the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments.

The Ryan White CARE Act provides resources through states, localities, and agencies, all with the goal of improving the quality and availability of care of low-income, uninsured, and underserved individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. I am thankful for the many individuals and families who have been assisted and care for because of this landmark legislation. And I thank those health care providers, community health centers, and families who care for individuals with HIV/AIDS.

We have seen some successes as a result of the Ryan White Act. In fact, in the city of Chicago, the number of deaths due to AIDS decreased from approximately 1,000 per year in 1993-95 to only 377 during 1997. Also, the Ryan White Act is reaching out to the poor. On a national level, the average annual income of more than 50 percent of Ryan White clients have never exceeded \$25,000 per year, compared with 27 percent of all HIV-positive clients in care in 1996. Furthermore, the AIDS Drug Assistant Program formulary was expanded from 33 drugs in 1996 to 65 drugs in 1997, including all protease inhibitors and antiretroviral therapies.

These reports are encouraging, however, Illinois is among the ten states in the nation reporting the highest number of AIDS cases from 1981 to 1999, that is, 22,348 individuals with AIDS in Illinois, 19,347 of those individuals living in Chicago. We can reach even more people through prevention and early diagnosis programs and we can treat even more people with greater access to the latest drugs and technology.

I therefore fully support the expanded provisions under the Ryan White Amendments. First of all, these new provisions revise the grant formula to reflect the prevalence of HIV infections and AIDS cases. Under current law, funds are distributed only on the basis of AIDS cases.

Secondly, the bill establishes a new supplementary competitive grant program for states in "severe need" of additional resources to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In determining severe need, HHS will consider evidence of disparities in access and services and historically underserved communities.

Also, perinatal transmission of HIV is a problem that needs to be more fully addressed through early testing of the mother and baby and through counseling and treatment programs. I am pleased that this bill increases the authorization for the grant program dealing with perinatal HIV transmission by \$20 million.

In addition to the provisions I mentioned, the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments would create focused efforts to reach prisoners with HIV/AIDS, reach individuals who are currently not receiving care, and eliminate disparities in access to services.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore rise in strong support of the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments.